

# Ulysses, leader of men

innovation in Zamagna's *Odyssey*

Petra Šoštarić

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of Classics

Zagreb

[psostari@ffzg.hr](mailto:psostari@ffzg.hr)



*Bernardus Zamagna  
Procurator Ragusinus*

Brno Džamanjić/Bernard  
Zamagna/Bernardus (de) Zamagna



# HOMERI ODYSSEA

LATINIS VERSIBUS EXPRESSA

A BERNARDO ZAMAGNA

RAGUSINO

AD

OPTIMUM PRINCIPEM

PETRUM LEOPOLDUM

AUSTRIACUM

etc. etc. etc.



SENIS CIO IDCC LXXVII  
EXCUDERANT FRATRES PAZZINI CARLI.

PRÆSIDUM PERMISSO.

# *Homeri Odyssea latinis versibus expressa*

- Why Latin?
- Why Homer?
- Why Dubrovnik?



# The tradition of Croatian latinity

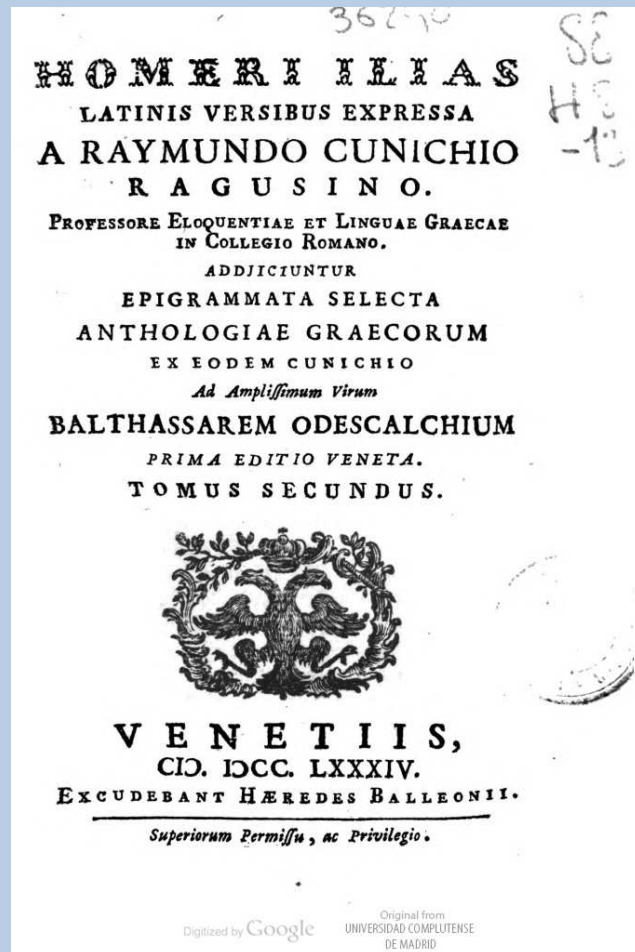
- The middle ages: inscriptions, royal charters, official documents, chronicles in medieval Latin (*Historia Salonitana, Obsidio Iadrensis*)
- Humanism and renaissance: strong ties with Italy
- Marko Marulić/Marcus Marulus: the father of Croatian literature (*Institutiones, Davidias...*)
- Jakov Bunić/Iacobus Bonus Ragusaeus (*De raptu Cerberi, De vita et gestis Christi*)
- CroALa at <http://www.ffzg.unizg.hr/klafil/croala/>

# The Dubrovnik connection

- 18th century: Ruđer Bošković, Rajmund Kunić, Brno Džamanjić (aka Bernardus Zamagna/Zamanja)
- Jesuit education in Dubrovnik
- Collegium Romanum
- Students, teachers
- Friends, fellow poets
- Academia Arcadia



*Homeri Ilias*  
*Latinis versibus expressa*  
*expressa a*  
Raymundo  
Cunichio  
Ragusino



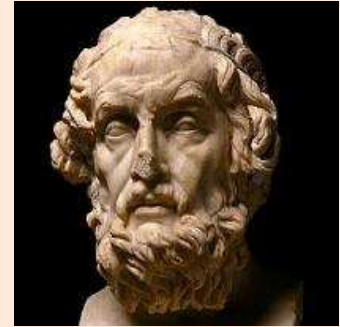
# The two translators

- Kunić: *Anthologia Graeca, Theocritus, Homeric hymn to Demeter, Homeri Ilias Latinis versibus expressa*, 1776.
- Zamagna: *Theocritus, Hesiod, Homeri Odyssea Latinis versibus expressa*, 1777.
- The influence of Kunić on Monti, Zamagna...
- Byzantium and Dubrovnik

Poetry of their own:

- Kunić: *Epigrammata*
- Zamagna: *Echo, Navis aëria*

# Translating Homer



- Into Latin: Poliziano, Hess, Lemnius...
- 18th century aesthetic
- Homer and classicism
- Homer in the visual arts
- Pindemonte, Monti, Voss, Pope, Anne Dacier...
- What about Parry and Lord's research of oral poetry?



# Zamagna's *Odyssea*

- 3 editions: Siena 1777, Venice 1784, Zadar 1832.
- Influenced by Kunić, Virgil...
- fides/venustas
- Zamagna's introductory essay on translation
- "Sorry I didn't do it in the Illyrian language"



# The Homeric formula

- Milman Parry: *Formula is an expression regularly used, under the same metrical conditions, to express an essential idea. Thus the essential idea of the words... “polytlas dīos Odysseus” is “Odysseus”.*
- Formula consisting of a name + traditional epithet = name
- What do Kunić & Džamanjić (Zamagna) do?
- 3 ways of dealing with the Homeric epithet:
  1. omission
  2. translation (exact/approximate)
  3. innovation

# Examples # 1: omission of the epithet

- pepnymenos Tēlemakhos = Telemachus
- dīos Eumaios = Eumaeus (almost always vocative!)
- amymonos Aigisthoio = Aegisthi (very convenient)
- nephelēgereta Zeus = Juppiter
- ekhephrōn Pēnelopeia = Penelope



# Examples #2:translation

## Exact translation:

- Atreides Agamemnon – Atrides Agamemnon
- ksanthos Menelaos – flavus Menelaus
- kourēi Ikarioio = Icarii natae

## Approximate:

- glaukōpis Athēnē = caesia dea, caerula Pallas, glauco lumine dea pulcra
- nephelēgereta Zeus = nimborum rector Olympi

## Examples #3: innovation

- Argeiē Helenē = alma proles Ledaea
- Kalypsous ēukomoio = Calypso candida
- khrysothronos Artemis = Latonia virgo
- glaukōpis Athēnē = nata Tonante virgo, dea, Pallas, Tritonia proles, diva, Tritonia virgo, nata Jovis
- Hermeia khrysorrapi = Maja generate
- Artemidi khryselakatōi = Dictynnae
- epainēs Persephoneiēs = Hecates
- pepnymenos Tēlemakhos = juvenis, generatus/natus Ulysse, ille, heros Telemachus (1!)



## Examples #4: Ulysses, our hero

dīos/polyphrōn/poikilomētis/polymēkhan' /esthlos /  
theios/ptoliporthos Odysseus =

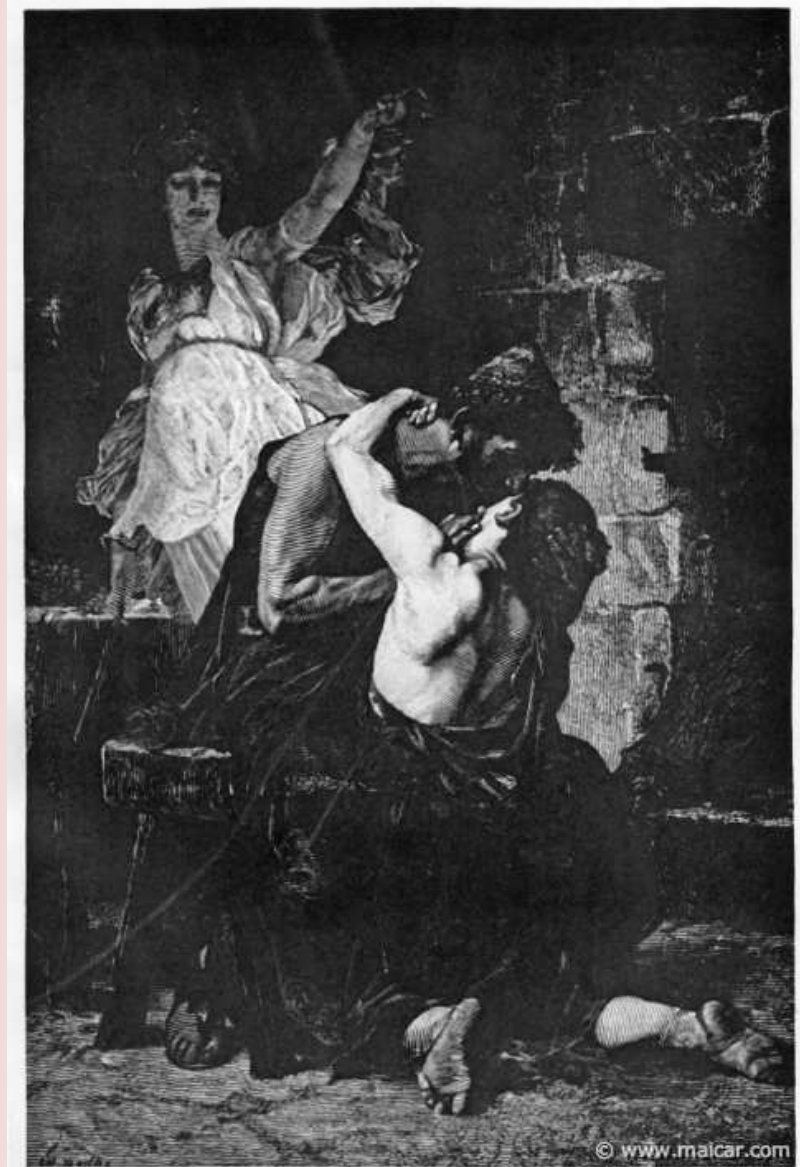
**Ithacus** heros, gens/proles Laërtia, dius,  
**fortissimus heros, genitor**, vafer heros,  
rerum mirande inventor, mitis, fortis,  
**ductor** Ulysses, **maximus heros**,  
**ductor Laërtius**, divinus, acer, magnanimus,  
Laërtiades Ulysses,  
murorum eversor

talasiphronos: misero, miserandi  
(not before book 17!)



# Why?

- No Latin equivalents
- The metre
- Zamagna's own beliefs
- Classicist aesthetics
- Promoted values
- The emphasis on certain character traits and relationships



# family & friends

- Who's the most faithful wife?
- Who's the smartest?
- Who's the greatest hero?
- Who's the best leader?
- Which family is the happiest?
- When will Telemachus grow up?
- "You are no longer a child: you must put childish thoughts away." ([Athena](#) to Telemachus, 1.296).





# Zamagna's portrait of Ulysses



# maximus ductor – or maybe not?



- Bragging after the Polyphemus incident
- Elpenor
- Eolus' winds
- Was Homer himself aware of this problem?

# ΟΔΥΣΣΕΙΑ

Ἄνδρα μοι ἔννεπε, Μοῦσα, πολύτροπον, ὃς μάλα πολλὰ  
πλάγχθη, ἐπεὶ Τροίης ἱερὸν πτολίεθρον ἔπερσε·  
πολλῶν δ' ἀνθρώπων ἴδεν ἄστεα καὶ νόον ἔγνω,  
πολλὰ δ' ὃ γ' ἐν πόντῳ πάθεν ἄλγεα ὃν κατὰ θυμόν,  
ἀρνύμενος ἥν τε ψυχὴν καὶ νόστον ἐταίρων.  
ἄλλ' οὐδ' ὥς ἐτάρους ἐρρύσατο, ἰέμενός περ·  
αὐτῶν γὰρ σφετέρῃσιν ἀτασθαλίῃσιν ὄλοντο,  
νήπιοι, οἳ κατὰ βοῦς Ὑπερίονος Ἥελίοιο  
ἦσθιον· αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῖσιν ἀφείλετο νόστιμον ἦμαρ.

# Ulysses in literature

- Homer
- Greek tragedy
- The Romans
- Chapman's Homer
- 20th century: Christa Wolf (*Kassandra*), Margaret Atwood (*The Penelopiad*), Nikos Kazantzakis

